



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve  
2480B Ks Hwy 177  
Strong City, KS 66869

620-273-6034 phone  
[www.nps.gov/tapr](http://www.nps.gov/tapr)

---

## Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve News Release

Release Date: February 26, 2013

Contact: Wendy Lauritzen, [wendy\\_lauritzen@nps.gov](mailto:wendy_lauritzen@nps.gov) 620-273-6034 ext. 280

### Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Tourism Creates \$901,000 in Local Economic Benefit – *Part of \$30 billion impact that supports 252,000 jobs nationwide*

Strong City, KS – A new National Park Service (NPS) report for 2011 shows that the 17,893 visitors to Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve spent \$901,000 in communities surrounding the park. This spending supported 14 jobs in the local area.

“Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a wonderful place to learn about the rich natural and cultural heritage of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem,” said park superintendent Wendy Lauritzen. “We attract visitors from across the U.S. and around the world. With the exception of Antarctica, last year we had visitors from every continent of the world. People come here to experience the park and then spend time and money enjoying the services provided by our neighboring communities while getting to know this amazing part of the country. The National Park Service is proud to have been entrusted with the care of America’s most treasured places and delighted that the visitors we welcome generate significant contributions to the local, state, and national economy.”

The information on Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is part of a peer-reviewed spending analysis of national park visitors across the country conducted by Michigan State University for the National Park Service. For 2011, that report shows \$13 billion of direct spending by 279 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. That visitor spending had a \$30 billion impact on the entire U.S. economy and supported 252,000 jobs nationwide.

Most visitor spending supports jobs in lodging, food, and beverage service (63 percent) followed by recreation and entertainment (17 percent), other retail (11 percent), transportation and fuel (7 percent) and wholesale and manufacturing (2 percent.)

To download the report visit [www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM](http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM) and click on *Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation, 2011*.

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Kansas and how the National Park Service works with communities to preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide local recreation opportunities, go to [www.nps.gov/kansas](http://www.nps.gov/kansas).

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 398 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

--- END ---

---

**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.